

The lack of Public Safety Spectrum for safe and reliable operations for the responding officers has been an Issue for years. There have been many efforts, which Public Safety has attempted to petition the FCC for increases in Spectrum and at times has been successful. Unfortunately the bigger picture has never been addressed. Public Safety needs continue to increase and there needs to be a process in place which allows Public Safety first shot at allocations which are being made available before commercial entities. This includes the need for additional spectrum for advanced services such as wide area broadband communications in the 700 MHz band. Under the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, the FCC is required to study the short-term and long-term spectrum needs of emergency response providers and report its findings to Congress by Dec. 17th.

The lack of spectrum has been and can be equated by lives lost versus lives saved. The less capable Public Safety is to communicate, the more lives will be lost. It is to citizens's benefit that the Public Safety Community be provided the necessary spectrum required to do their jobs quickly and safely.

Additional allocations in all areas of the spectrum are necessary not just limited to the 700 MHz or 4.9 GHz areas. Other areas of the Spectrum VHF, UHF and 800 MHz should also be increase permanently and increased as deemed necessary.